

Compare Contrast paper

Alexa Thompson

DFST 340

Voice-off

Instructor: Lesli Williams

Email: [lehicks@nmu.edu](mailto:lehicks@nmu.edu)

Date: 2/6/22

## **Compare Contrast paper**

### **Intro**

We will be looking into what makes up the linguistic components of both ASL and English. We will then look at how they are similar and how they differ. Looking into these linguistic components and finding out how they may help you learn to structure your sentences.

### **ASL linguistic components**

ASL linguistic components are made up of two components which then break into smaller categories. The two components are manual and non-manual. Manual is made up of handshape, motion, and placement. The non-manual component is made up of the face. Handshape is made up of the knuckles, fingertips, and wrist. The motion is important as many signs incorporate motion and the hand movement verses staying still could mean a different word, or change the sentence completely. Placement is along the same lines as movement, sometimes the simplest thing like on chin vs under chin can make a nice word a rude one. This is another reason that non-manual is also important with some signs being so similar the facial expressions could be the only difference to clarify if you accidentally did the wrong sign when learning.

### **English linguistic components**

There are considered six major components of the English language, we will be looking at each to find out what it makes up. The six components are phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. We will now look into each and define them and what makes them up. Let's start with phonetics which are speech sounds, this is the breakdown of words and letters and the sound each one makes. Next is phonology which is very similar to phonetics which makes it hard to differentiate. Morphology is the break in words so the prefix or suffix of a word and its meaning.

Syntax is the way a sentence or phrase is used to effectively communicate meaning. Semantics and pragmatics is generally the meaning of a sentence.

### **Similarities**

Some similarities between ASL and English linguistic components are that they need to be used to communicate effectively. Phonetics, you could argue, is similar to hand shape due to both being an individual breakdown that is needed to continue moving forward in the language. Students both hearing and deaf start with their alphabet and move on from there, phonetics would be for the hearing students while hand shape would be important for the deaf students. Morphology would be similar in a way to non-manual facial structures due to both needing to be used to help convey the correct tone and conversation.

### **Differences**

Due to ASL and English being two different languages they have different linguistic components and sentence structure. We talked about how they can be seen as similar so let's look at the other side of their differences. English is spoken and has 6 different components compared to ASL which is visual and has two bigger components. The way both languages structure their sentences is different from one another to make sense, while they have similar rules to make the sentences make sense they go about it in their own way with person, place, thing. Both have rules for how to describe things and while the rules are similar the layout is basically opposite order.

### **Conclusion**

Today we looked over ASL and English similarities and differences of linguistic components. We looked into the breakdown of the language and what each of the terms meant.

## References

- Boundless. (n.d.). *Boundless psychology*. Lumen. Retrieved February 4, 2022, from <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-psychology/chapter/introduction-to-language/>
- Ding, L., & Martinez, A. M. (2009, November 1). *Modelling and recognition of the linguistic components in American sign language*. Image and vision computing. Retrieved February 4, 2022, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2757299/#:~:text=The%20manual%20signs%20in%20sign,meaning%20of%20the%20manual%20sign.>